GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:581
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
PRISONERS OF WARS
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian soldiers imprisoned by Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war of 1971 have either been forcibly converted to Islam or have been sold in the muslim countries; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)&(b) There are 54 Indian prisoners of war (POW) believed to be in the custody of Pakistan. The issue of their release and repatriation has been continuously taken up with the Government of Pakistan at all levels. The Government of Pakistan has, however, never acknowledged their presence in its custody.